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Response to 7/19/007 office action for patent application #10/734,601, Pratt et al.

OK to enter.

/TN/

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August 14, 2007

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Office action dated 7/19/007 regarding U.S. patent application number 10/734,601

Dear Sirs:

This letter is responsive to the office action dated 7/19/007 (copy attached) regarding U.S. patent application number 10/734,601.

Claim rejections under USC Section 103:

The examiner rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gainey et al. (US Pub. 20040157551) in view of Bassirat (US Patent 6507741). The examiner has made this rejection final.

We request reconsideration of this rejection on the grounds that it would not be obvious to combine Gainey and Bassirat to accomplish the present invention, because Gainey specifically teaches away from the present invention. Gainey specifies a delay "associated with the repeated transmission that is equal to or greater than the received signal detection time. The delay is not otherwise dependent upon characteristics of the received signal". In the present invention the delay specifically always does depend on other characteristics of the received signal. In specific, in the present invention the delay is dependent on where the received signal is intended to be routed to (or, equivalently, given a particular routing program, the delay is dependent on where the received signal is received from). Thus one of ordinary skill in the art would be taught by Gainey not to use Gainey's invention to accomplish the aims of the present invention. We therefore submit that claim 15 is patentable in its present form.

Allowed Subject Matter:

The examiner has allowed claims 1-7 and 16-22. We wish to have these claims issued. We also wish to have claim 15 issued if the examiner allows it upon reconsideration.

If the examiner wishes to discuss this response letter by telephone, at his convenience he may contact Lee Weinstein at (781)643-3281.